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Back to the Issue-What Do You Do With Your Duplicate Journals?

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Back to the Issue — What Do You Do With Your Duplicate Journals

Column Editor: **Don Jaeger** (Alfred Jaeger, Inc.) <jaeger@ajaeger.com>

This is a new concept for a column. We will answer your questions regarding back volume periodical collection development. We are also interested in your opinion on any relevant topics. We want to hear from librarians, but also from publishers and vendors. I invite you to send your questions to me at Alfred Jaeger, Inc., 66 Austin Blvd., Commack, New York 11725-9009 or email me at <jaeger@ajaeger.com>. DJ

Q: How do I go about selling journals that our library is discarding?

A: What a vendor requires is a list of the actual holdings that the library wishes to discard and the basic condition of the material; basically good to excellent condition is best. Vendors will make an offer for individual items or for the entire lot if preferred and usually we will pay the freight, UPS, parcel post, or motor freight.


Q: We are a state institution and cannot sell material for cash payment. What do you suggest?

A: In cases where libraries cannot sell for payment, a common solution is for the vendor to issue a credit which can be applied to any future purchases.

Q: Our library receives gifts of journals from professors and alumni that we really don't need. What should we tell them if they require a value for the journals?

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years posed a few questions which have ranged from the value they add to the asset and what happens when a CD-ROM subscription is canceled, to the impact which the price of the very expensive CD-ROMs have on the average price of an item.

Despite the move to the WWW, CD-ROMs will still be around for awhile longer, but with more opportunities for wider access to documents and databases via the Web, we must now gear our minds to dealing with the many questions which come with it. As Librarians involved in collection development and management begin to incorporate Internet resources into the collections, the asset valuation of library collections is going to be further complicated. In this ever-changing world of CD-ROMs, Online, and Web access, "challenge" is one thing that is certain, and in the future it will become more a part of life than it ever has been. 


A: Many times we are contacted by libraries in this situation and, of course, the journals are a duplication of the library's existing collection. In that case, we ask the library to refer the individual directly to us so that we may ascertain if the journals are of value. Many times they are not, but this relieves the librarian of any responsibility of disposing of the journals. It is also unnecessary for the librarian to provide the individual donating the material with any valuation of the journals.

Q: What if a person asks the library for a value of the journals that they have donated?

A: The library's responsibility is only to issue a receipt for the actual material received. Appraisals can be obtained from certain vendors that offer this service. What we require is an exact list of holdings, including bound and unbound volumes, and condition

of same. Usually a physical inspection of the journals is unnecessary unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as flood or fire damage. A vendor will charge a fee based upon the size of the list, and the anticipated value of the appraisal.

Q: What happens if I request an appraisal from several vendors and the values differ drastically?

A: There are two types of appraisals for journals. The first and most common is the "fair market" evaluation which is used for donation purposes and is somewhere between wholesale and scrap value. The second type of appraisal is called "replacement" value which means what would the cost in today's dollars be to replace the collection if it were destroyed or damaged by fire, flood, etc. The replacement value appraisal obviously would be higher. 

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